to the receipt of the notification. The other apparatus may be a part of the device or otherwise being linked to the device. The actual transmission of the notification may be performed by a device corresponding to the apparatus, comprising the apparatus or otherwise linked to the apparatus, that is not physically connected to the device of which a function is to be activated.

[0041] Without limiting the scope of the claims, certain embodiments thus provide an alternative to existing solutions using an integrated camera in a mobile phone for controlling the state of a display. Without limiting the scope of the claims, certain embodiments may have the effect that they can be used for controlling different kinds of functions. Without limiting the scope of the claims, certain embodiments may have the effect that they can be used for controlling the functions of devices of different kinds, not only of mobile phones. Without limiting the scope of the claims, certain embodiments may have the effect that a more accurate determination may be achieved of whether or not a user can be assumed to be looking at a device.

[0042] The apparatuses **100**, **200** illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **3** and the methods illustrated in FIGS. **2** and **4** may be implemented and refined in various ways.

[0043] In the next passages, without limiting the scope of the claims, the apparatus according to the first aspect will be referred to as first apparatus. The device transmitting a notification will be referred to as first device. The apparatus according to the second aspect will be referred to as second apparatus. The device of which a function is to be controlled will be referred to as second device.

[0044] In an example embodiment, the first apparatus, the first device and the sensor are physically unconnected to the second apparatus and to the second device.

[0045] For the transmission, any direct or indirect wireless link may be used, for instance a Bluetooth link, a wireless local area network (WLAN) link or an infrared link complying with Infrared Data Association (IrDA) standard, etc.

[0046] The at least one sensor may comprise one or more sensors of various types.

[0047] In an example embodiment, the at least one sensor comprises an image sensor of a camera. The camera can be configured to capture still images and/or configured to capture video images. In an example embodiment, evaluating data captured by the at least one sensor may then comprise evaluating whether a stored image of at least a part of the second device can be matched to a part of an image captured by the camera. Without limiting the scope of the claims, detecting the second device in an image captured by the camera may be a hint that the user is looking at least roughly in the direction of the second device, if the camera is arranged to have the same viewing direction as the user.

[0048] Alternatively, evaluating data captured by at least one sensor may comprise evaluating whether a stored image of at least a part of the second device can be matched to a part of a predetermined area of an image captured by the camera. Without limiting the scope of the claims, this may have the effect that it may be determined whether the user can be assumed to be looking more or less directly at the second device, since it allows taking account of the viewing angle of the user. Further alternatively, evaluating data captured by at least one sensor may comprise evaluating whether it can be predicted that a stored image of at least a part of the second device can be matched to a part of a predetermined area of an image captured by the camera. This may be achieved, for instance by tracking the stored image over several captured images, to see whether the second device in the stored image moves into the direction of the predetermined area. Without limiting the scope of the claims, this may have the effect that it may be determined whether the user can be assumed to be looking more or less directly at the second device in the near future. As a result, in certain embodiments the function of the second device may be activated slightly earlier than without prediction, which may further improve the user experience.

[0049] It is to be understood that such a predetermined area could be set depending on the exact position that the camera has in relation to the eyes of the user if used as intended. In certain embodiments, a predetermined area could also be set individually for each user. For instance, the user could press a button when looking at the second device to capture an image. A stored image of the second device could then be matched to the area in the captured image showing the second device, and this area could be selected as the predetermined area. An image of at least a part of the second device will also be referred to as template.

[0050] In an example embodiment, evaluating data captured by the at least one sensor comprises evaluating whether a predetermined signal is provided by the second device. Without limiting the scope of the claims, such a signal could be a light signal of a predetermined wavelength or pattern. It is to be understood that this evaluation may be used in addition or alternatively to an evaluation of an image captured by a camera. If used in addition, without limiting the scope of the claims, the evaluation of the signal could provide a confirmation of the result of the evaluation of captured image data.

[0051] In an example embodiment, determining whether a user can be assumed to be looking at the second device by evaluating data captured by the at least one sensor comprises checking whether data captured by the at least one sensor meets a criterion. Without limiting the scope of the claims, the criterion could be that a stored image can be matched to a captured image. In case the data meets the criterion, the first apparatus may cause a transmission of a request to the second apparatus via a wireless link to cause a predetermined action. Without limiting the scope of the claims, the predetermined action could be the emission of a signal. The first apparatus may then determine that a user can be assumed to be looking at a device in case data captured by the at least one sensor confirms that the predetermined action has been registered by the at least one sensor. Without limiting the scope of the claims, this may have the effect that the first apparatus may differentiate between second devices of similar appearance.

[0052] In an example embodiment, a corresponding second apparatus may monitor whether a request to cause a predetermined action is received from the first device via a wireless link. In case it is determined that such a request is received, the second apparatus may cause the predetermined action. In certain embodiments, this monitoring may take place at the second apparatus as a preceding action, before monitoring whether a notification is received indicating that a user can be assumed to be looking at the second device.

[0053] In an example embodiment, the monitoring whether a notification is received is performed by the second apparatus, whenever a predefined event occurs or a predefined criterion is met. Without limiting the scope of the claims, such an event may comprise for example an incoming session at a mobile phone and the predefined criterion may comprise a low battery mode. Without limiting the scope of the claims, this may have the effect that processing power for the moni-